

**THE**  
**MISCHIEF**  
 That falls on the  
**FREEHOLDERS**  
**OF**

**ENGLAND,**

By the Absolute Prohibition

**OF**

**Exporting WOOLL.**

**WITH**

**Reasons for a Limited EXPORTATION of it.**

**T**HE Business of the Merchant is always to make Commodities where they buy Cheap, and where they sell Dear, and therefore they study Arguments that may best answer their End; And if they can raise Arguments so specious, as to be received without a strict Search into them, (that will do their own Business) they do not regard how much the Places they deal to or from, are prejudiced. For which purpose they have framed an Argument, That to carry away our Wooll out of the Land unwrought, is to starve the Poor; And to let other Nations have the Benefit that is to be made by working out our Wooll, is to lose so much Treasure as would be earned by Manufacturing our Wooll: But this doth appear more plainly to be an Argument to serve their own turn, than to Increase the Treasure of the Nation by the labour of the poor, by their own daily practice in a parallell case, for the very same Loss and Disadvantage that one sort of poor and Manufacturers sustain by carrying out our Wooll unwrought out of England, doth fall on another sort of poor and Manufacturers in bringing in Silks ready wrought, to the discouragement of the Ingenuity of our own People, and loss of all that Money that would be gained by the Working it

out here: Yet, (tho the Cafe of bringing in wrought Silks into *England*, are lyable to all the Objections raised against Exporting Wooll unwrought,) because its for the Merchants advantage it is permitted, when they obtain to have Exportation of Wooll made Felony, although the Necessity and Interest of the Nation be more for the Exportation of what grows amongst us, than the bringing in that we can live without.

Now if I can make it appear, by this Restraint (which but of late Years hath been upon Wooll) there is a greater loss to the Freeholders of *England* in the Rent of the Lands thereof, than all the Improvement by working upon Wooll can amount to, and do also provide, that there shall be no want of Wooll to employ all those hands that can work on it in *England*, I hope it will not be thought unreasonable for me to propose a limited Exportation of Wooll, whereby the King may have a considerable Custom, and the Manufacturers no want of Wooll to work on.

As to the clearing this point, there was no Law of any long Continuance, that did Prohibit the Exportation of Wooll till the Year 1647. but that it might Lawfully be Exported, paying the King such Custom as upon several occasions was thought fit. But in the Year 1647. through the Destruction the War had made, Wooll was worth 14d. or 16d. the pound, for which reason it was then thought Necessary to Prohibit the Exportation of it, and from that time hath so continued. Now that price was very high, and then it might be thought very Necessary to restrain Exportation of it: But I Estimate Wooll at 10d. the pound to be an indifferent Rate, and such as will not much affect the price of the Commodity made of it, if the Workmanship do so much exceed the value as is proposed.

Since this Prohibition, Wooll hath kept continually falling, and now is fallen to 6d. the pound, and no Market for it, and they who have solicited the Prohibiting Exportation of it, do not spare to say 4d. a pound is enough for Wooll, because then they can undersell all Nations, tho the Merchant is sparing of that to, by denying a free Trade.

But the true Interest of *England* is to keep up the price of Wooll, and the care of our Ancestors hath been so to do, as may appear by several Statutes, where the Reason for making such Statutes is expressed in the front of them, to be for the keeping the price of Wooll the better.

I do affirm that the Lands of *England* that are proper to keep Sheep on, will upon every 20s. per Annum keep so many Sheep as will bear 12l. of Wooll, so that every penny that you fall in a pound of Wooll, pulls down the price of Land 1s. per Annum in the pound Rent: And therefore it is clear, that the fall of Wooll from 10d. a pound to 5d. which it will speedily come to, is the fall of five Shillings in the pound per Annum of all the Lands of *England* that Wooll grows on.

Now that the fall of 5s. per Annum out of every 20s. is more loss to the Freeholders of *England* than all the Manufacture of Wooll comes to, I shall Demonstrate thus:

I do admit the Manufacture to be four times so much as the Wooll, tho in many Commodities not above twice so much, and in none more, unless it be fine Stockings, which cannot consume very much Wooll; and in general



ral of all the Woollen Manufacture in *England*, if one sort be compared with another, the whole Manufacture will not come to more than four times so much as the Original Wooll.

So that if you suppose Wooll at 10d. a pound for a *medium*, one pound of Wooll raises 3s.--4d. by work, and the Wooll itself 10d. which makes the Wooll wrought out, come to 4s.--2d. Now if your Lands fall 5s. *per Annum* in the pound as is aforesaid, the loss to the Freeholders is greater than the Commodity ready wrought ( Wooll and Workmanship ) by 10d. in every 20s. *per Annum* : So that the Parties concerned in Wooll, or the Interest of *England* in keeping up the price of it, is not so inconsiderable as some will represent it, but more to be valued than all the Manufacture of it.

After all this it is but reasonable, since the Parties that so much press for the Prohibition of Wooll, and will have the Exportation so Criminal, when they will not undertake to buy up the Wooll at such a Rate as may be reasonably given for it ; But confine the Growers of Wooll to their pleasure, that such Proposal of Exporting Wooll as may Secure to them so much Wooll as they can work out, and at such a price that none shall be able to Underfel them, may be admitted.

The PROPOSALS therefore Humbly Offered are,

I. *That no Wooll shall be Exported from the time of Sheering till after the First day of November yearly, to the end that all people in England that do work on Wooll, may be provided of Wooll to supply their occasions.*

II. *That when Wooll will sell at home for 10d. the pound, all the Severities that can be thought on shall be Inflicted on those that do at any time Export it.*

III. *That for every Pack of Wooll to be Exported as aforesaid, shall be paid to the King 30s. which with the Freight will make it so much dearer to others in Parts beyond the Seas, that they cannot spoil our Markets by Underfelling us.*

This Method will take care of all Parties, that the workmen shall not want Wooll to work on, nor the Grower a Market for his Wooll, the King shall have advantage by the Custom of all that is Exported, the People better able to pay Taxes, honest men look more cheerfully upon one another, that loose sort of people who now steal it away, will not have any Temptation to transgress a Law, nor the other sort of loose people ( who for swearing shall have one Moiety of what they can get Condemned ) to perjure themselves, and We shall tread in the Steps of our Worthy Ancestors, who took Care for the Vent and Price of Wooll, as appears by these several Acts of Parliament hereafter recited, *viz.* 15 Ed. 3. c. 5. 27 Ed. 3. c. 27. 31 Ed. 3. c. 8. 36 Ed. 3. c. 11. 43 Ed. 3. c. 1. 5 Ric. 2. c. 2. 14 Ric. 2. c. 45. 1 Eliz. c. 20. 1 Jas. 1. c. 33. and many more.

**FINIS.**